

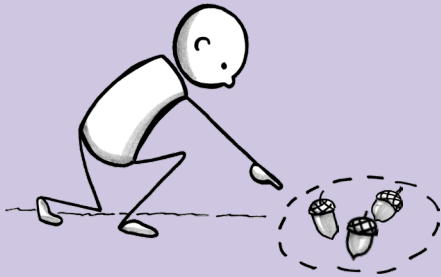
Flipping Through Nature:  
Card Decks to Guide Outdoor Exploration

# Exploring Acorns

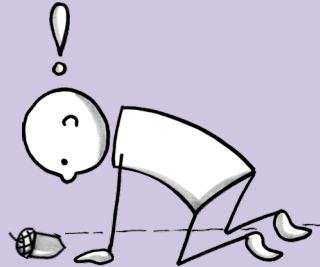
Explore acorns  
and learn more  
about why they're  
important.



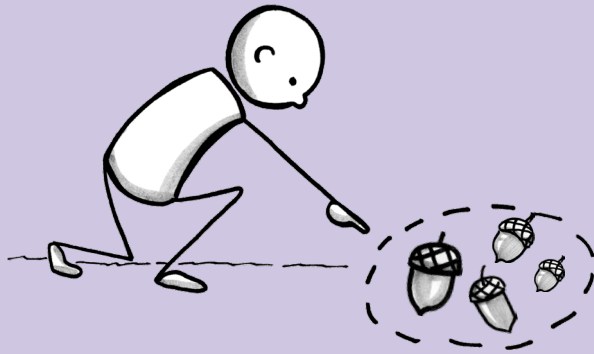
Find a few interesting acorns.



What do you notice about them?

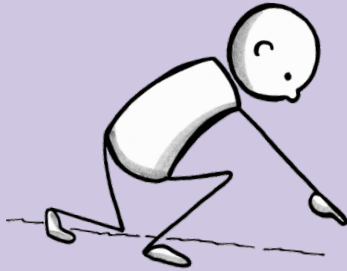


# Can you find big and tiny acorns?



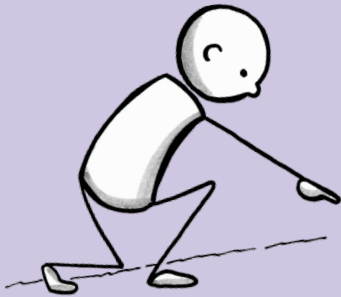


# Can you find acorns with openings?





# Can you find acorn caps?





# Can you find . . .



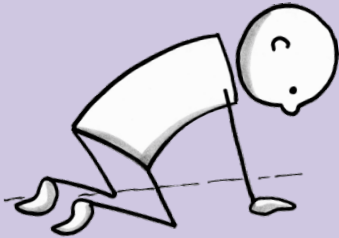
... baby acorns?



... old acorns?

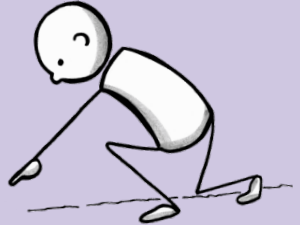


# Can you find sprouting acorns?



What time of year might be best for finding sprouting acorns?

# Can you find acorns that have grown into oak trees?



Acorns are oak tree seeds.



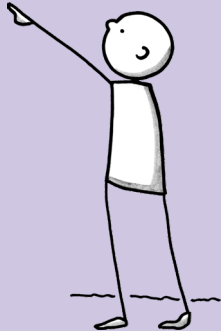


# Can you find . . .

... acorns in trees?



... acorn caps in trees?



# What animals might eat acorns?



Can you see any animals eating or gathering acorns?



Can you find evidence of acorns being eaten?

# Jays and squirrels bury acorns to eat later.

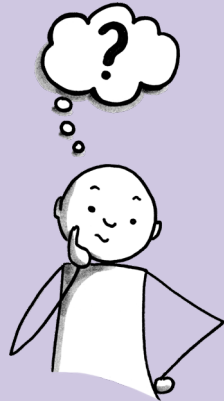


One jay can bury more than 3,000 acorns per year.

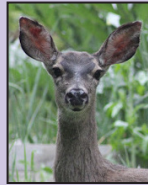
The acorns they forget may grow into oaks.

# Oak trees support *many* living things.

How many things can you think of?



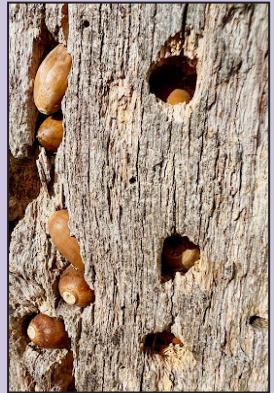
# All these animals eat acorns!



Oaks are superstars for supporting ecosystems!

# Acorn woodpeckers can store thousands of acorns in trees, fences, or buildings.

Have you ever seen holes where woodpeckers store acorns?



# Oaks communicate with other trees.



Do you see trees around you that might be communicating underground?

Fungi connect their roots. They share nutrients and even send warnings.





**“Planting an oak is one of the best things you can do to support your ecosystem.”**

*–Doug Tallamy, entomologist*

young oak

acorn





Is there anything in your home or school that used to be an acorn?



# What questions do you have about acorns?

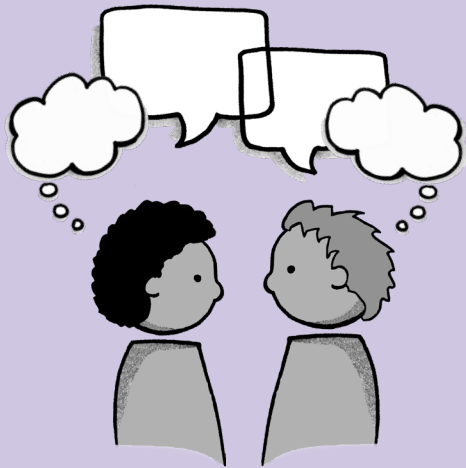


How might you look for answers?

Where else could you observe acorns?



# Think back on your experience.



Think about or discuss:

- What have you learned about acorns?
- What did you do that helped you learn about acorns?



To see more *Flipping Through Nature: Card Decks to Guide Outdoor Exploration* activities, visit [lwrnce.org/center-for-environmental-learning](https://lwrnce.org/center-for-environmental-learning). There you will also find guides for using the *Flipping Through Nature* card decks, photo acknowledgments, and more information.



Funding for *Flipping Through Nature: Card Decks to Guide Outdoor Exploration* has been generously provided by Woka Foundation.

